COMMANDERS DIGEST

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President Nixon Invites Hanoi Leaders to Enter 'Door to Peace'

President Nixon said on return June 10 from the Midway Island meeting with Republic of Vietnam President Thieu that the United States had "opened the door to peace." He invited leaders of North Vietnam "to walk with us through that door."

The Midway meeting, President Nixon related, brought home the message that the forces of South Vietnam have now been trained and equipped to the point that they are able to take over a substantial portion of combat activities presently being borne by Americans.

Second, that meeting means that President Thieu completely approves and supports the eight-point peace program which I set forth in my May 14 speech to the nation. There is not disagreement between us on that program.

And, third, that meeting means that after five years in which more and more Americans have been sent to Vietnam, we finally have reached the point where we can begin to bring Americans home from Vietnam.

President Nixon continued:

"This does not mean that the war is over. There are negotiations still to be undertaken. There is fighting still to be borne, until we reach the point that we can have peace.

"But I do think in conclusion that this observation is worth making:

"By the May 14 speech that I made setting forth an eight-point program for peace, and by our action in withdrawing 25,000 American combat forces from Vietnam, we have opened wide the door to peace.

"And now we invite the leaders of North Vietnam to walk with us through that door either by withdrawing forces from South Vietnam as we have withdrawn ours, or by negotiating in Paris or through both avenues . . ."

Task Force Heads for Hawaii to Plan Troop Replacement

Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird dispatched a team June 11 to Hawaii to work with the planning task force being established at Pacific Command Headquarters of Admiral John S. McCain, Jr. to work out details for the replacement of the first 25,000 U.S. troops in the Republic of Vietnam.

The task force, which includes representatives from the Services, Pacific Command Headquarters, MACV, and the JCS Joint Staff, as well as representatives of the Military Airlift Command and the Military Sea Transportation Service, began a three-day planning session June 12.

Today's Society Requires Sound Leadership

"The military service and our government, like the free enterprise system, need young men who want to assume responsibility for what happens next . . . because only through shouldering responsibility does leadership develop."

Those words echoed through Michie Stadium, West Point, N.Y., June 4 as General William C. Westmoreland addressed graduating cadets of the U.S. Military Academy.

Following is the text of General Westmoreland's address to the U.S. Military Academy Class of 1969:

I am privileged to return to this great institution to recognize and address the Class of 1969. As I stand here and observe once more young men who are about to begin a career of service to our Nation, my thoughts turn to the sorrowful Friday afternoon on the 28th of March of this year. On that day we paused to pay homage to a great American. We joined millions of other people the world over who mourned his passing — General Dwight D. Eisenhower — a man of humble background, a man of

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"The legacy of General Eisenhower is your goal."—General William C. Westmoreland.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

President Nixon Gives Priority To Tense Middle East Situation

The tense situation in the Middle East, which has been heightened by the exchanges of gunfire and other violations of the cease-fire in the Suez Canal area, is of increasing concern to the United States.

In a shrunken, interdependent world, areas of instability are dangerous and could become the source of a major power conflict, according to Foreign Policy Briefs, a State Department publication. In addition, a new dimension and complexity has been added to the Arab-Israeli dispute by the expansion of Soviet influence in the area in the past dozen years, and more particularly since the June 1967 war.

The State Department notes that U.S. involvement in the area dates back to World War I, and since that time this country has followed a consistent policy of encouraging regional development and peaceful negotiation of differences.

President Nixon has given high priority to the search for a "juridically defined and contractually binding" peace settlement in the Middle East.

The State Department said it is the Administration's hope that the Four-Power talks will find ways to reinforce Ambassador Jarring's (Gunnar Jarring, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General) efforts to achieve the objectives of the Security Council resolution.

HEADS PUBLIC AFFAIRS—Daniel Z. Henkin was sworn in May 25 as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. He had been acting Assistant Secretary.

Defense Secretary Would Keep Current Troop Level in Europe

Returning home May 31 after a series of North Atlantic Treaty Organization meetings in Europe, Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird said he does not feel that this is the time to reduce our forces in Europe.

He noted it was only last August that Russia moved into Czechoslovakia and then added: "We're moving from a period that the President (Nixon) has said: a period of confrontation to a period of negotiation. I think it would be a mistake to reduce troop levels in Europe at this time."

In Brussels for NATO Defense Planning Committee meetings, the Secretary of Defense was asked if his trip was "partly dedicated" to paving the way among NATO allies for any future talks between the Soviet Union and the U.S. on limiting nuclear forces.

Secretary Laird answered: "President Nixon feels that it is most important for us to have cooperation and consultation with our NATO friends. And before any bilateral talks are conducted on a formal basis with the Soviet Union, President Nixon has assured our NATO friends that we will have full consultation. I would assume that part of that consultation would start right with these Defense Planning Committee meetings."

In background information released after the DPC meetings, Secretary Laird reported the meeting "gave us an opportunity to again reaffirm the new Administration's commitment to NATO. It gave us an opportunity to continue the important dialogue and discussions and consultations which are continuing to go on with our Allies on a wide variety of public concerns, including the strategic balance between the Soviet Union, the Warsaw Pact countries, the U.S. and the NATO countries."

President's Independence Day Message

On July 4, 1969, we shall observe the 193rd anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This is a special day to be celebrated by all Americans. It is a time to recall with joy and celebration the proclamation of "liberty throughout the land," on that Glorious Fourth in 1776, the day our Nation was born.

In the words of John Adams, our second President, this day "ought to be commemorated . . . by solemn acts of devotion to God . . . solemnized with pomp and parade . . . from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward, evermore."

Our heritage of the democratic principles of the equality and dignity of all men and their "unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" stems from this document. These principles, to which the Declaration's founders mutually pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor, are today protected by all men and women in the Armed Forces. For this, all Americans can be proud of your contribution to our security — to ensure that succeeding generations of Americans will always be able to celebrate Independence Day.

Richard Nixon

Cancellation of MOL Project to Save Defense $1.5 Billion

Secretary Laird's Independence Day Message

July 4th—the anniversary of our Nation's birthday—is a proper time for all members of our Armed Forces to recall and contemplate our priceless heritage of freedom. The principles of equality, freedom and justice expressed in our Declaration of Independence have echoed down through the years for all men and their governments to hear and adhere to.

Our liberty was not gained easily, and can never be taken for granted. We must not forget that the Declaration was adopted in time of war, and that our forefathers' struggle for independence was long, won at great cost.

Today, our Nation still realizes that tyranny and aggression are not easily conquered; that peace and freedom for all mankind will prevail only if those "unalienable rights" set forth in the Declaration are made available to all people.

It is only through your service and devotion to our country that we can defend our freedom, our democracy and our way of life. Your contribution to America's security guarantees that freedom will be an eternal birthright for all Americans to enjoy.

Melvin R. Laird

Marine Corps Is Testing Multi-Shot Flame Weapon

A new "clip" loaded, four-barreled flame weapon which because of its increased range and accuracy will make it more functional in combat, may replace the portable flamethrower now in use by the Marine Corps.

Designated the XM 191 Multi-Shot Portable Flame Weapon, it will fire four rocket-propelled flame rounds, similar in appearance to the one fired by the M72 Light Anti-Tank weapon.

The Marine Corps said the new weapon cannot be called a flamethrower since it does not spit forth a column of fire. The round fired detonates upon impact and the flame agent inside burns upon exposure to air.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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NEW COMMANDER—Col. Jack T. Pink became the eleventh commandant of the U.S. Army Adjutant General School at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Ind., May 14. He succeeds Col. Nathan H. Hixson who retired.

Army Halts Production Phase Of Cheyenne Armed Helicopter

Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor has notified Lockheed Aircraft Corporation that the production phase of the AH-56A Cheyenne armed helicopter program has been terminated by the Army for default.

The action was based on the Army's conclusion that any aircraft delivered in accordance with the contractual schedule would fail to meet performance specifications in several significant respects.

Deputy Secretary of Defense David Packard announced June 10 that the Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) program had been cancelled and that the cancellation would save about $1.5 billion in Fiscal Year 1970 through 1974.

The primary objectives of the MOL program were to advance the development of both manned and unmanned defense-oriented space equipment, and to ascertain the full extent of man's utility in space for defense purposes.

Following are excerpts of Mr. Packard's statement:

The primary factors in the decision to cancel the MOL project included (1) the continuing urgency of reducing Federal defense spending and (2) advances in automated techniques for unmanned satellite systems.

We fully recognize that the Fiscal Year 1970 budget proposals now before the Congress are receiving intense scrutiny and that the appropriate Committees in both Houses in Congress are searching for ways of reducing expeditures as we are also doing in the Department of Defense.

In keeping with the spirit and intent of these reviews, the MOL cancellation will be a major step in reducing the budget. Of the $525 million now proposed for the Fiscal Year 1970 budget authorization, several hundred million will be saved in expenditures. The remainder will be needed for termination costs and in order to pursue Air Force unmanned, space programs.

In addition, based on recent budget estimates, the cancellation will save about $1.5 billion in Fiscal Year 1970 through 1974.

In order to reduce the Defense research and development budget significantly, it was necessary to cut back drastically on numerous small programs or to terminate one of the larger, most costly R&D undertakings. We have concluded that the potential value of possible future applications of the MOL were not as valuable as the aggregate of other DoD programs that would need to be curtailed to achieve equal reductions.

'To Foster World Peace'

A Fresh Approach To Foreign Aid

"A few years ago, mass starvation within a decade seemed clearly possible."

"THERE IS A MORAL QUALITY in this nation which will not permit us to close our eyes to want in this world . . ."

Following are excerpts from President Nixon's special Message to Congress of May 28.

Americans have for many years debated the issues of foreign aid largely in terms of our own national self-interest.

Certainly our efforts to help nations feed millions of their poor help avert violence and upheaval that would be dangerous to peace. Certainly our military assistance to allies helps maintain a world in which we ourselves are more secure. Certainly our economic aid to developing nations helps develop our own potential markets overseas. And certainly our technical assistance puts down roots of respect and friendship for the United States in the court of world opinion.

These are all sound, practical reasons for our foreign aid programs.

But they do not do justice to our fundamental character and purpose. There is a moral quality in this nation that will not permit us to close our eyes to the want in this world, or to remain indifferent when the freedom and security of others are in danger.

We should not be self-conscious about this. Our record of generosity and concern for our fellow men, expressed in concrete terms unparalleled in the world's history, has helped make the American experience unique. We have shown the world that a great nation must also be a good nation. We are doing what is right to do.

A Fresh Approach

This Administration has intensively examined our programs of foreign aid. We have measured them against the goals of our policy and the goad of our conscience. Our review is continuing, but we have come to this central conclusion:

U.S. assistance is essential to express and achieve our national goals in the international community—a world order of peace and justice.

But no single government, no matter how wealthy or well-intentioned, can by itself hope to cope with the challenge of raising the standard of living of two-thirds of the world's people. This reality must not cause us to retreat into helpless, sullen isolation. On the contrary, this reality must cause us to redirect our efforts in four main ways. In essence, these are the new approaches:

1. Enlisting Private Enterprise

I propose the establishment of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The purpose of the Corporation is to provide business-like management of investment incentives now in our laws so as to contribute to the economic and social progress of developing nations.

The majority of the Board of Directors, including its President, will be drawn from private life and have business experience.

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation will give

new direction to U.S. private investment abroad. As such, it will provide new focus to our foreign assistance effort.

Simultaneously, I propose a mandate for the Agency for International Development to direct a growing part of its capital, technical and advisory assistance to improving opportunities for local private enterprise in developing countries—on farms as well as in commerce and industry.

We do not insist that developing countries imitate the American system. Each nation must fashion its own institutions to its own needs. But progress has been

"Foreign aid cannot be viewed in isolation."

greatest where governments have encouraged private enterprise, released bureaucratic controls, stimulated competition and allowed maximum opportunity for individual initiative. A.I.D.'s mandate will be directed to this end.

2. Expanding Technical Assistance.

I propose a strong new emphasis on technical assistance.

Over one-fifth of the funds requested for fiscal year 1970 are for technical assistance activities. Imaginative use of these funds at the points where change is beginning can have a gradual but pervasive impact on the economic growth of developing nations. It can make our dollars for all forms of aid go further.

To make it possible to carry through these plans most effectively, I am requesting a two-year funding authorization for this part of the A.I.D. program.

3. Sharing the Assistance Effort

I propose that we channel more of our assistance in ways that encourage other advanced nations to fairly share the burden of international development.

This can be done by:

- Increasing jointly our contributions to international development banks.
- Increasing jointly our contributions to the United Nations technical assistance program.
- Acting in concert with other advanced countries to share the cost of aid to individual developing countries.

Assistance through international development banks and the United Nations is approaching a fifth of total world-wide aid for development and should be expanded. Multilateral programs cushion political frictions between donors and recipients and bring the experience of many nations to bear on the development problem. Moreover, they explicitly require shared contributions among the advanced nations.

4. Furthering Food Production and Family Planning

This Administration, while moving in the new directions I have outlined, will apply the lessons of experience in our foreign aid programs.

One basic lesson is the critical importance of releasing the brakes on development caused by low agricultural productivity. A few years ago, mass starvation within a decade seemed clearly possible in many poor nations. Today they stand at least on the threshold of a dramatic breakthrough in food production.

The experience of this decade has also shown that lower rates of population growth can be critical for speeding up economic development and social progress. An increasing number of countries have adopted national family planning programs to attack the problem. At least another decade of sustained hard work will be needed if we are to win the battle between economic development and population.

Planning for the '70s

We need to learn more about the role which foreign assistance can play in the development process, and the relationship between development and overall U.S. foreign policy.

I am therefore establishing a task force of private citizens to make a comprehensive review of the entire range of U.S. aid activities, to consider proposals of the United Nations bodies and international commissions, and to help me determine what our national policies should be toward the developing countries in the decade of the 1970s.

Toward a World of Order

Foreign aid cannot be viewed in isolation. That is a statement with a double meaning, each side of which is true.

If we turn inward, if we adopt an attitude of letting the underdeveloped nations shift for themselves, we would soon see them shift away from the values so necessary to international stability. Moreover, we would lose the traditional concern for humanity which is so vital a part of the American spirit.

In another sense, foreign aid must be viewed as an integral part of our overall effort to achieve a world order of peace and justice.

In this time of stringent budgetary restraint, we must stimulate private investment and the cooperation of other governments to share with us in meeting the most urgent needs of those just beginning to climb the economic ladder. And we must continue to minimize the immediate impact on our balance of payments.

This request for foreign economic and military assistance is the lowest proposed since the program began. But it is about 900 million dollars more than was appropriated last year. I consider it necessary to meet essential requirements now, and to maintain a base for future action.

The support by the Congress of these programs will help enable us to press forward in new ways toward the building of respect for the United States, security for our people and dignity for human beings in every corner of the globe.

Peace in Today's Society Requires Sound Leadership

(Continued from Page 1)

noble character, a man of eminent prestige — a man whose life had influenced the lives of millions throughout the world.

He had dedicated his life to the service of his country. His service had been long, diversified and productive. Although only a Major at the age of 45, with 20 years of service as an officer, nevertheless, he had prepared himself to meet the challenges of the future. It was Eisenhower, the soldier, who was selected to lead the greatest military force man ever deployed against an aggressor. Following two years as head of a great university, Eisenhower, the soldier/statesman, was recalled to active duty to lead the Supreme Allied Command under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In 1953, Dwight D. Eisenhower, the patriot, became the thirty-fourth President of the United States.

During his eulogy in the rotunda of our Nation's Capitol, President Nixon said that Dwight Eisenhower was "a man who truly loved his country." General Eisenhower also loved West Point — a love that never dimmed as he approached the twilight of his service. I know, personally, of this love for West Point because he talked to me about it many times.

I have several reasons for reminiscing about General Eisenhower's contributions to the Nation he loved so much. His life of dedication to his country illustrates the qualities of leadership which we must have in today's world of unparalleled challenge; it serves as an example for men of many professions — of leaders at all levels of organization, civilian as well as military — but particularly it can serve as a goal for you, the Class of 1969, to emulate. It demonstrates the need for leaders who can rise to a challenge. Each of you has the capability to meet head-on the profound challenges of today and tomorrow. You too will succeed — you too are destined to serve and to contribute to the welfare of our country.

Worthy of recall are General Eisenhower's last words to the people of the United States as their President. He said:

> *A vital element in keeping the peace is our military establishment. Our arms must be mighty, ready for instant action, so that no potential aggressor may be tempted to risk his own destruction.*

While proclaiming the need for strength, General Eisenhower's feelings about war were the same as those of every man in uniform who — just as he — "witnessed the horror and lingering sadness of war." No one who has tasted its tragedy and witnessed its cruelties could ever become its advocate. Yet, like General Eisenhower, while working to achieve peace, we must continue to face the harsh realities of life. And, violence between men and nations unfortunately is one of those harsh realities.

Peace is not — as some persons contend — the total absence of violence in a society. Peace is the organization, or control, of violence in a society. And sound leadership to aid in that organization is, as never before, at a premium.

The complexities which General Eisenhower faced as a leader are now being faced by our leaders at all echelons. They will face you as you take your places as officers in the service of our country. Although these complexities may not be the same in magnitude or scope, they will be every bit as perplexing and often even more diversified.

As I stand here in the company of the Class of 1969, my thoughts carry me back thirty-three years ago when I sat where you now sit . . . young, but not immature . . . educated, yet not all-knowing . . . unfamiliar with the Army, yet appreciative of its role . . . and enthusiastic, yet at the same time apprehensive. Conditions in the world then were unstable. Our own country had just begun to emerge from the demoralizing Great Depression. The storm clouds were gathering in both Asia and Europe. Although my class was warned that our role in the future was to be significant, few of us were convinced, and none could conceive the magnitude of the role we were destined to play.

Here in the United States, our orientation was introspective. We were so concerned with our domestic problems and so convinced that our geographical isolation shielded us from the problems of the world that our preparedness had been whittled to a dangerous level. The strength of the Army was only 180,000. Yet, within a few short years, we were to become so engulfed in the turmoil of the world that we were forced to build the greatest military machine in history.

Today you are faced with many similar . . . yet, at the same time, contrasting problems.

In the 1930's, the United States found itself in a position of weakness. Now it deals in world affairs from a position of strength.

Today, in heeding General Eisenhower's challenge to keep our arms mighty, we enjoy success in deterring global war. We find ourselves, however, involved in a complex conflict that defies a quick solution. We find that some of our own countrymen are ever clamoring louder for us to pull in . . . withdraw . . . reduce our international commitments — to focus inwardly to solve pressing domestic problems. Our national will to honor our foreign commitments is being questioned — perhaps eroded. At least our enemies would have us infer that our resolve has diminished. We find our military establishment, that has helped to forge the shield behind which this country has lived in prosperity, is now under attack. And finally, we find the values that we have traditionally honored are being questioned . . . altered . . . and in some cases discarded.

Wars are no longer fought by military tactics alone, if indeed, they ever were. Today the maintenance of peace and the waging of war are products of highly involved equations containing many unknowns . . . unknowns that cut across all the instruments of national policy — the political, the socio-economic, the psychological, and the military.

These complexities become further involved when viewed from the various levels at which the military leader works

during his career. These levels vary from the international or strategic level . . . to the national or domestic level . . . through the operational or tactical level . . . to the level of the individual.

Our Nation faces an enormous spectrum of military threats . . . from all-out nuclear war, which we strive to deter, to the threat of externally directed insurgency against nations that want to remain free.

All of our Nation's leaders, both civilian and military, must deal with such complex problems as a normal challenge. Military officers must appreciate considerations, other than purely military, that constitute a coordinated national effort. At the same time, their role is military and their advice should not be compromised by considerations beyond their cognizance. The orchestration of governmental instrumentalities is the role of political authority. Yet, if the Armed Forces are to accomplish their assigned missions, they need the support of the American people.

Furthermore, the military profession — your profession — becomes even more intricate when viewed from the large number of selective capabilities it can employ — if authorized by civil authorities . . . to counter various threats to our country. These range from the use of military assistance and advisors . . . to a show of force . . . through the measured use of conventional military power . . . to the use of nuclear weapons.

"At the 'man-to-man' level, our leaders must be able to handle the personal and often very emotional problems found in every generation— indeed in society itself."

At the national level the military leader must be ready not only *tactically* . . . but he must also be ready *tactfully* to use measured force in times of civil disaster or disorder.

And finally, at the national level, we must be ever mindful of the constructive role that our Armed Forces have played . . . and continue to play . . . in our society, a role that cuts across the fields of education, health, transportation, communication, construction, exploration, and sociology — to name a few.

At the operating level, numerous complex skills must be mastered. Our officers must be business managers on a big scale. They must be capable of mastering the machines of peace as well as war. They must be authorities in transportation, logistics, and personnel administration. And they must possess the vision to chart our Nation's needs in research and development.

At the "man-to-man" level, our leaders must be able to handle the personal and often very emotional problems found in every generation — indeed in society itself.

But most important, the individual leader — you members of the Class of 1969 — must stand out as the guiding example for your men, and in them you must inspire respect that is undying. The legacy of General Eisenhower is your goal.

★ *You must possess unquestioned personal integrity and the highest of morals.*

★ *You must be fair, consistent and dignified.*

★ *You must be able to face the dangers that every man in uniform has faced since time immemorial.*

★ *You must be able to undergo the physical hardship that not every man is willing to endure.*

★ *You must readily accept discipline — but what is more difficult, you must frequently be the disciplinarian.*

★ *You must accept periodic criticism of the military as inevitable, some of which may be unfair and irresponsible. However, you should not be a slave to this criticism, but take solace in the knowledge that you are defending a civilian society that permits free expression.*

★ *You must willingly accept and adjust to family separations whenever national interest demands.*

★ *And in a period when material things are becoming more and more the incentive for the individual, you must take pride in a job "well done" rather than material remuneration.*

★ *In short, you must display those attributes that you expect — even demand — from those whom you will lead.*

These standards prescribe a man of unusual motivation, a man of dedication, . . . of dedication to serve our Nation for the gratification that only service to one's country can give.

The military service and our government, like the free enterprise system, need young men who want to assume responsibility for what happens next . . . because only through shouldering responsibility does leadership develop.

In order for our officers to handle the complexities of modern military life that I have described, they must build through the experience of responsibility from a firm foundation — a foundation that can only come from a liberal education — the kind you have been fortunate to receive.

Our Nation cannot risk having leaders with a stereotyped mind — narrow, unyielding, unimaginative. Instead, it must have leaders who are innovators . . . men with initiative . . . men with imagination . . . men with vision . . . men who want to be men . . . men who are disciplined, yet men who are responsible.

These are the men we need as leaders . . . men of great mental flexibility who can adapt to a changing world . . . men who want to live a purposeful life . . . men who want to contribute — to be honorable . . . men who care . . . and men who are dedicated to the service of our great Nation. Our Nation needs — and the unknown future demands — such men. You are such men.

Gentlemen of the Graduating Class, many of you are probably deeply disturbed at the apparent dissatisfaction and unrest which are manifest throughout our country today. How this questioning, challenging, doubting, even rejecting, will affect your lives and careers is a question for all of us.

As students of history and society, you know only too

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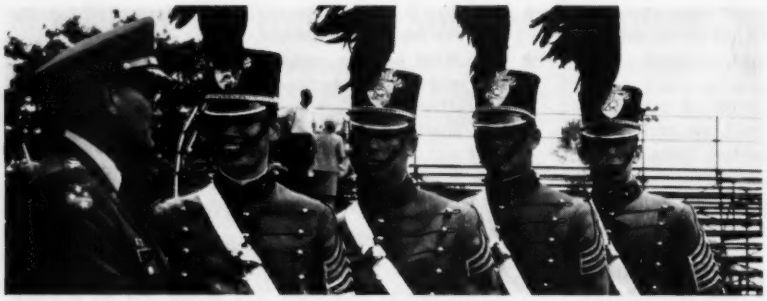

HONORED CADETS—Major General S. W. Koster, Superintendent of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., congratulates four cadets who received special honors. They are, left to right: Howard J. von Kaenel, Lawton, Okla.; Charles J. Jarvis, Cornwall Heights, Pa.; Thomas R. Wheelock, Alexandria, Va.; and Robert H. Baldwin Jr., Maumee, Ohio.

Review of Future For New Officers

(Continued from Page 7)

well the long, difficult struggle within Western civilization to create social and political institutions of a democratic character. The framework of our government with its legal and social systems is based on consent — not only consent expressed in the polling booth, but consent and general agreement on a set of values and beliefs on which all else is based. No social structure so large and intricate, so dynamic, so ever-changing, so confronted with enormous problems could long survive through coercion or direction by a small group. Our way of life must proceed on the basis of a broad and general agreement on goals, an accepted set of values, and concepts of social justice, and general agreement on what is tolerable and what is not. If this underlying consensus disappears, then our complex mechanisms cannot operate. Three thousand years of history have told us that when the forces of consent have been replaced by the forces of coercion, we will have lost the magic spark which has made our country both great and unique.

As young officers about to embark on a military career in the midst of an unpopular war, you are aware of public attitudes. You will require an unusual sense of balance and rare judgment to avoid discouragement and disillusionment. I believe that the voices of dissension and dissent represent a minority view. Yet, I would hate to see the Army or our society mark time in the name of traditionalism. On the other hand, I continue to believe in certain values, which in Western society are eternal. I know that the United States Army is today, as it was in the beginning, dedicated to the protection of this Nation and the precepts on which it was founded.

You are about to be commissioned in the military service of your country. In accepting your Commission, you are taking an oath to defend and preserve the Constitution of the United States which embodies these values and precepts from which the structure of our government has grown.

You are joining a highly motivated, dedicated Corps of Officers. As members of the Long Gray Line, you join an illustrious assemblage of "sons of an earlier day." As graduates of West Point, however, you join your fellow alumni in a group that represents only a small minority within the Officer Corps.

Like your fellow officers who are commissioned through ROTC, Officer Candidate Schools, or on the battlefield, you must establish your reputation and prove your worth by your motivation . . . your judgment . . . your intelligence . . . your stamina . . . your bravery . . . your loyalty . . . and your dedication to service.

West Point has prepared you well to meet this challenge. Testimony to your four difficult years of preparation is symbolized in two items that you will depart with today. These items that you will treasure — yet never advertise — are your diploma and your Academy ring.

The first — your Military Academy diploma — attests to your excellence in academic achievement. On it is inscribed that you have been "carefully examined on all the branches of the arts, sciences and of literature taught at the United States Military Academy," and have "been judged worthy to receive the Degree of Bachelor of Science."

Your ring is your other token of achievement — but perhaps a more cherished memento because it will be on your person continually.

Let this ring be your ever present stimulus for service to country, let it remind you of your obligation for the future, and lastly, let it be your link to the past — a past of notable accomplishments by those "sons of an earlier day."

Fifty-four years ago, General Eisenhower reversed his ring on graduation — just as you will today — so that the Academy crest was facing his heart . . . symbolizing his acceptance of the full heritage of West Point. He wore it proudly for forty-four years — throughout a lifetime of service to his country. Today, General Eisenhower's ring — worn by time and responsibility — returns to West Point.

This ring — with the legend of the great man who wore it, is a part of the institution that prepared him — as it has prepared you — for a life of service to our country. May the Academy ring ever remind us, as it reminded General Eisenhower, of our heritage and obligations as American citizens and as members of the Long Gray Line. And — *When our work is done,*

Our course on earth is run,

May it be said well done . . .

General Koster (Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy), at the request of Mrs. Eisenhower, I have the distinct honor to present to the United States Military Academy the ring of General of the Army Dwight David Eisenhower, Class of 1915.

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